

# EXHIBIT RTB-1

**R. THOMAS BEACH**  
**Principal Consultant**

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Mr. Beach is principal consultant with the consulting firm Crossborder Energy. Crossborder Energy provides economic consulting services and strategic advice on market and regulatory issues concerning the natural gas and electric industries. The firm is based in Berkeley, California, and its practice focuses on the energy markets in California, the U.S., and Canada.

Since 1989, Mr. Beach has had an active consulting practice on policy, economic, and ratemaking issues concerning renewable energy development, the restructuring of the gas and electric industries, the addition of new natural gas pipeline and storage capacity, and a wide range of issues concerning independent power generation. From 1981 through 1989 he served at the California Public Utilities Commission, including five years as an advisor to three CPUC commissioners. While at the CPUC, he was a key advisor on the CPUC's restructuring of the natural gas industry in California, and worked extensively on the state's implementation of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- *Renewable Energy Issues:* extensive experience assisting clients with issues concerning Renewable Portfolio Standard programs, including program structure and rate impacts. He has also worked for the solar industry on rate design and net energy metering issues, on the creation of the California Solar Initiative, as well as on a wide range of solar issues in many other states.
- *Restructuring the Natural Gas and Electric Industries:* consulting and expert testimony on numerous issues involving the restructuring of the electric industry, including the 2000 - 2001 Western energy crisis.
- *Energy Markets:* studies and consultation on the dynamics of natural gas and electric markets, including the impacts of new pipeline capacity on natural gas prices and of electric restructuring on wholesale electric prices.
- *Qualifying Facility Issues:* consulting with QF clients on a broad range of issues involving independent power facilities in the Western U.S. He is one of the leading experts in California on the calculation of avoided cost prices. Other QF issues on which he has worked include complex QF contract restructurings, standby rates, greenhouse gas emission regulations, and natural gas rates for cogenerators. Crossborder Energy's QF clients include the full range of QF technologies, both fossil-fueled and renewable.
- *Pricing Policy in Regulated Industries:* consulting and expert testimony on natural gas pipeline rates and on marginal cost-based rates for natural gas and electric utilities.

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**EDUCATION**

Mr. Beach holds a B.A. in English and physics from Dartmouth College, and an M.E. in mechanical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

**ACADEMIC HONORS**

Graduated from Dartmouth with high honors in physics and honors in English.  
 Chevron Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley, 1978-79

**PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION**

Registered professional engineer in the state of California.

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

1. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of **Pacific Gas & Electric Company/Pacific Gas Transmission** (I. 88-12-027 — July 15, 1989)
  - *Competitive and environmental benefits of new natural gas pipeline capacity to California.*
2.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Producer Group** (A. 89-08-024 — November 10, 1989)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Producer Group** (A. 89-08-024 — November 30, 1989)
  - *Natural gas procurement policy; gas cost forecasting.*
3. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Producer Group** (R. 88-08-018 — December 7, 1989)
  - *Brokering of interstate pipeline capacity.*
4. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Producer Group** (A. 90-08-029 — November 1, 1990)
  - *Natural gas procurement policy; gas cost forecasting; brokerage fees.*
5. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission and the Canadian Producer Group** (I. 86-06-005 — December 21, 1990)
  - *Firm and interruptible rates for noncore natural gas users*

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6.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission** (R. 88-08-018 — January 25, 1991)
  - b. Prepared Responsive Testimony on Behalf of the **Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission** (R. 88-08-018 — March 29, 1991)
  - *Brokering of interstate pipeline capacity; intrastate transportation policies.*
7. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Producer Group** (A. 90-08-029/Phase II — April 17, 1991)
  - *Natural gas brokerage and transport fees.*
8. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of **LUZ Partnership Management** (A. 91-01-027 — July 15, 1991)
  - *Natural gas parity rates for cogenerators and solar thermal power plants.*
9. Prepared Joint Testimony of R. Thomas Beach and Dr. Robert B. Weisenmiller on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (I. 89-07-004 — July 15, 1991)
  - *Avoided cost pricing; use of published natural gas price indices to set avoided cost prices for qualifying facilities.*
10.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Indicated Expansion Shippers** (A. 89-04-033 — October 28, 1991)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the **Indicated Expansion Shippers** (A. 89-04-0033 — November 26, 1991)
  - *Natural gas pipeline rate design; cost/benefit analysis of rolled-in rates.*
11. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Independent Petroleum Association of Canada** (A. 91-04-003 — January 17, 1992)
  - *Natural gas procurement policy; prudence of past gas purchases.*
12.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (I.86-06-005/Phase II — June 18, 1992)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (I. 86-06-005/Phase II — July 2, 1992)
  - *Long-Run Marginal Cost (LRMC) rate design for natural gas utilities.*
13. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 92-10-017 — February 19, 1993)
  - *Performance-based ratemaking for electric utilities.*

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14. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **SEGS Projects** (C. 93-02-014/A. 93-03-053 — May 21, 1993)
  - *Natural gas transportation service for wholesale customers.*
15. a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers** (A. 92-12-043/A. 93-03-038 — June 28, 1993)  
 b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony of Behalf of the **Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers** (A. 92-12-043/A. 93-03-038 — July 8, 1993)
  - *Natural gas pipeline rate design issues.*
16. a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **SEGS Projects** (C. 93-05-023 — November 10, 1993)  
 b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the **SEGS Projects** (C. 93-05-023 — January 10, 1994)
  - *Utility overcharges for natural gas service; cogeneration parity issues.*
17. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **City of Vernon** (A. 93-09-006/A. 93-08-022/A. 93-09-048 — June 17, 1994)
  - *Natural gas rate design for wholesale customers; retail competition issues.*
18. Prepared Direct Testimony of R. Thomas Beach on Behalf of the **SEGS Projects** (A. 94-01-021 — August 5, 1994)
  - *Natural gas rate design issues; rate parity for solar thermal power plants.*
19. Prepared Direct Testimony on Transition Cost Issues on Behalf of **Watson Cogeneration Company** (R. 94-04-031/I. 94-04-032 — December 5, 1994)
  - *Policy issues concerning the calculation, allocation, and recovery of transition costs associated with electric industry restructuring.*
20. Prepared Direct Testimony on Nuclear Cost Recovery Issues on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 93-12-025/I. 94-02-002 — February 14, 1995)
  - *Recovery of above-market nuclear plant costs under electric restructuring.*
21. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Sacramento Municipal Utility District** (A. 94-11-015 — June 16, 1995)
  - *Natural gas rate design; unbundled mainline transportation rates.*

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22. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of **Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 95-05-049 — September 11, 1995)
  - *Incremental Energy Rates; air quality compliance costs.*
23. a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers** (A. 92-12-043/A. 93-03-038/A. 94-05-035/A. 94-06-034/A. 94-09-056/A. 94-06-044 — January 30, 1996)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the **Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers** (A. 92-12-043/A. 93-03-038/A. 94-05-035/A. 94-06-034/A. 94-09-056/A. 94-06-044 — February 28, 1996)
  - *Natural gas market dynamics; gas pipeline rate design.*
24. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 96-03-031 — July 12, 1996)
  - *Natural gas rate design: parity rates for cogenerators.*
25. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **City of Vernon** (A. 96-10-038 — August 6, 1997)
  - *Impacts of a major utility merger on competition in natural gas and electric markets.*
26. a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Electricity Generation Coalition** (A. 97-03-002 — December 18, 1997)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the **Electricity Generation Coalition** (A. 97-03-002 — January 9, 1998)
  - *Natural gas rate design for gas-fired electric generators.*
27. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **City of Vernon** (A. 97-03-015 — January 16, 1998)
  - *Natural gas service to Baja, California, Mexico.*

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28.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 98-10-012/A. 98-10-031/A. 98-07-005 — March 4, 1999).
  - b. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 98-10-012/A. 98-01-031/A. 98-07-005 — March 15, 1999).
  - c. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 98-10-012/A. 98-01-031/A. 98-07-005 — June 25, 1999).
  - *Natural gas cost allocation and rate design for gas-fired electric generators.*
29.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council and Watson Cogeneration Company** (R. 99-11-022 — February 11, 2000).
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council and Watson Cogeneration Company** (R. 99-11-022 — March 6, 2000).
  - c. Prepared Direct Testimony on Line Loss Issues of behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 99-11-022 — April 28, 2000).
  - d. Supplemental Direct Testimony in Response to ALJ Cooke's Request on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council and Watson Cogeneration Company** (R. 99-11-022 — April 28, 2000).
  - e. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Line Loss Issues on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 99-11-022 — May 8, 2000).
  - *Market-based, avoided cost pricing for the electric output of gas-fired cogeneration facilities in the California market; electric line losses.*
30.
  - a. Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Indicated Electric Generators** in Support of the Comprehensive Gas OII Settlement Agreement for Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (I. 99-07-003 — May 5, 2000).
  - b. Rebuttal Testimony in Support of the Comprehensive Settlement Agreement on behalf of the **Indicated Electric Generators** (I. 99-07-003 — May 19, 2000).
  - *Testimony in support of a comprehensive restructuring of natural gas rates and services on the Southern California Gas Company system. Natural gas cost allocation and rate design for gas-fired electric generators.*
31.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on the Cogeneration Gas Allowance on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 00-04-002 — September 1, 2000).
  - b. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Southern Energy California** (A. 00-04-002 — September 1, 2000).
  - *Natural gas cost allocation and rate design for gas-fired electric generators.*

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32.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 00-06-032 — September 18, 2000).
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 00-06-032 — October 6, 2000).
  - *Rate design for a natural gas “peaking service.”*
33.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **PG&E National Energy Group & Calpine Corporation** (I. 00-11-002—April 25, 2001).
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **PG&E National Energy Group & Calpine Corporation** (I. 00-11-002—May 15, 2001).
  - *Terms and conditions of natural gas service to electric generators; gas curtailment policies.*
34.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 99-11-022—May 7, 2001).
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 99-11-022—May 30, 2001).
  - *Avoided cost pricing for alternative energy producers in California.*
35.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony of R. Thomas Beach in Support of the Application of **Wild Goose Storage Inc.** (A. 01-06-029—June 18, 2001).
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony of R. Thomas Beach on behalf of **Wild Goose Storage** (A. 01-06-029—November 2, 2001)
  - *Consumer benefits from expanded natural gas storage capacity in California.*
36. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **County of San Bernardino** (I. 01-06-047—December 14, 2001)
  - *Reasonableness review of a natural gas utility’s procurement practices and storage operations.*
37.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 01-10-024—May 31, 2002)
  - b. Prepared Supplemental Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 01-10-024—May 31, 2002)
  - *Electric procurement policies for California’s electric utilities in the aftermath of the California energy crisis.*



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38. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers & Technology Association** (R. 02-01-011—June 6, 2002)
  - *“Exit fees” for direct access customers in California.*
39. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **County of San Bernardino** (A. 02-02-012 — August 5, 2002)
  - *General rate case issues for a natural gas utility; reasonableness review of a natural gas utility’s procurement practices.*
40. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers and Technology Association** (A. 98-07-003 — February 7, 2003)
  - *Recovery of past utility procurement costs from direct access customers.*
41.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council, the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, Calpine Corporation, and Mirant Americas, Inc.** (A 01-10-011 — February 28, 2003)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council, the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, Calpine Corporation, and Mirant Americas, Inc.** (A 01-10-011 — March 24, 2003)
  - *Rate design issues for Pacific Gas & Electric’s gas transmission system (Gas Accord II).*
42.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers & Technology Association; Calpine Corporation; Duke Energy North America; Mirant Americas, Inc.; Watson Cogeneration Company; and West Coast Power, Inc.** (R. 02-06-041 — March 21, 2003)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers & Technology Association; Calpine Corporation; Duke Energy North America; Mirant Americas, Inc.; Watson Cogeneration Company; and West Coast Power, Inc.** (R. 02-06-041 — April 4, 2003)
  - *Cost allocation of above-market interstate pipeline costs for the California natural gas utilities.*
43. Prepared Direct Testimony of R. Thomas Beach and Nancy Rader on behalf of the **California Wind Energy Association** (R. 01-10-024 — April 1, 2003)
  - *Design and implementation of a Renewable Portfolio Standard in California.*

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44.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 01-10-024 — June 23, 2003)
  - b. Prepared Supplemental Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 01-10-024 — June 29, 2003)
  - *Power procurement policies for electric utilities in California.*
45. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Indicated Commercial Parties** (02-05-004 — August 29, 2003)
  - *Electric revenue allocation and rate design for commercial customers in southern California.*
46.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Calpine Corporation and the California Cogeneration Council** (A. 04-03-021 — July 16, 2004)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Calpine Corporation and the California Cogeneration Council** (A. 04-03-021 — July 26, 2004)
  - *Policy and rate design issues for Pacific Gas & Electric's gas transmission system (Gas Accord III).*
47. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 04-04-003 — August 6, 2004)
  - *Policy and contract issues concerning cogeneration QFs in California.*
48.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association** (A. 04-07-044 — January 11, 2005)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association** (A. 04-07-044 — January 28, 2005)
  - *Natural gas cost allocation and rate design for large transportation customers in northern California.*
49.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers and Technology Association and the Indicated Commercial Parties** (A. 04-06-024 — March 7, 2005)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers and Technology Association and the Indicated Commercial Parties** (A. 04-06-024 — April 26, 2005)
  - *Electric marginal costs, revenue allocation, and rate design for commercial and industrial electric customers in northern California.*

50. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Solar Energy Industries Association** (R. 04-03-017 — April 28, 2005)
  - *Cost-effectiveness of the Million Solar Roofs Program.*
51. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Watson Cogeneration Company, the Indicated Producers, and the California Manufacturing and Technology Association** (A. 04-12-004 — July 29, 2005)
  - *Natural gas rate design policy; integration of gas utility systems.*
52.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 04-04-003/R. 04-04-025 — August 31, 2005)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 04-04-003/R. 04-04-025 — October 28, 2005)
  - *Avoided cost rates and contracting policies for QFs in California*
53.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers and Technology Association and the Indicated Commercial Parties** (A. 05-05-023 — January 20, 2006)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers and Technology Association and the Indicated Commercial Parties** (A. 05-05-023 — February 24, 2006)
  - *Electric marginal costs, revenue allocation, and rate design for commercial and industrial electric customers in southern California.*
54.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Producers** ( R. 04-08-018 – January 30, 2006)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **California Producers** ( R. 04-08-018 – February 21, 2006)
  - *Transportation and balancing issues concerning California gas production.*
55. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Manufacturers and Technology Association and the Indicated Commercial Parties** (A. 06-03-005 — October 27, 2006)
  - *Electric marginal costs, revenue allocation, and rate design for commercial and industrial electric customers in northern California.*
56. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 05-12-030 — March 29, 2006)
  - *Review and approval of a new contract with a gas-fired cogeneration project.*

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57.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Watson Cogeneration, Indicated Producers, the California Cogeneration Council, and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association** (A. 04-12-004 — July 14, 2006)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Watson Cogeneration, Indicated Producers, the California Cogeneration Council, and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association** (A. 04-12-004 — July 31, 2006)
  - *Restructuring of the natural gas system in southern California to include firm capacity rights; unbundling of natural gas services; risk/reward issues for natural gas utilities.*
58. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 06-02-013 — March 2, 2007)
  - *Utility procurement policies concerning gas-fired cogeneration facilities.*
59.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Alliance** (A. 07-01-047 — August 10, 2007)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Alliance** (A. 07-01-047 — September 24, 2007)
  - *Electric rate design issues that impact customers installing solar photovoltaic systems.*
60.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on Behalf of **Gas Transmission Northwest Corporation** (A. 07-12-021 — May 15, 2008)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of **Gas Transmission Northwest Corporation** (A. 07-12-021 — June 13, 2008)
  - *Utility subscription to new natural gas pipeline capacity serving California.*
61.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Alliance** (A. 08-03-015 — September 12, 2008)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Alliance** (A. 08-03-015 — October 3, 2008)
  - *Issues concerning the design of a utility-sponsored program to install 500 MW of utility- and independently-owned solar photovoltaic systems.*

62. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Alliance** (A. 08-03-002 — October 31, 2008)
  - *Electric rate design issues that impact customers installing solar photovoltaic systems.*
63.
  - a. Phase II Direct Testimony on behalf of **Indicated Producers, the California Cogeneration Council, California Manufacturers and Technology Association, and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 08-02-001 — December 23, 2008)
  - b. Phase II Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Indicated Producers, the California Cogeneration Council, California Manufacturers and Technology Association, and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 08-02-001 — January 27, 2009)
  - *Natural gas cost allocation and rate design issues for large customers.*
64.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (A. 09-05-026 — November 4, 2009)
  - *Natural gas cost allocation and rate design issues for large customers.*
65.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Indicated Producers and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 10-03-028 — October 5, 2010)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Indicated Producers and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 10-03-028 — October 26, 2010)
  - *Revisions to a program of firm backbone capacity rights on natural gas pipelines.*
66. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Alliance** (A. 10-03-014 — October 6, 2010)
  - *Electric rate design issues that impact customers installing solar photovoltaic systems.*
67. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Indicated Settling Parties** (A. 09-09-013 — October 11, 2010)
  - *Testimony on proposed modifications to a broad-based settlement of rate-related issues on the Pacific Gas & Electric natural gas pipeline system.*

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68.
  - a. Supplemental Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC** (A. 07-04-013 — December 6, 2010)
  - b. Supplemental Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC** (A. 07-04-013 — December 13, 2010)
  - c. Supplemental Prepared Reply Testimony on behalf of **Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC** (A. 07-04-013 — December 20, 2010)
  - *Local reliability benefits of a new natural gas storage facility.*
69. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **The Vote Solar Initiative** (A. 10-11-015—June 1, 2011)
  - *Distributed generation policies; utility distribution planning.*
70. Prepared Reply Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Alliance** (A. 10-03-014—August 5, 2011)
  - *Electric rate design for commercial & industrial solar customers.*
71. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 11-06-007—February 6, 2012)
  - *Electric rate design for solar customers; marginal costs.*
72.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Northern California Indicated Producers** (R.11-02-019—January 31, 2012)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Northern California Indicated Producers** (R. 11-02-019—February 28, 2012)
  - *Natural gas pipeline safety policies and costs*
73. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 11-10-002—June 12, 2012)
  - *Electric rate design for solar customers; marginal costs.*
74. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Southern California Indicated Producers** and **Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 11-11-002—June 19, 2012)
  - *Natural gas pipeline safety policies and costs*

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75.
  - a. Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 12-03-014—June 25, 2012)
  - b. Reply Testimony on behalf of the **California Cogeneration Council** (R. 12-03-014—July 23, 2012)
    - *Ability of combined heat and power resources to serve local reliability needs in southern California.*
76.
  - a. Prepared Testimony on behalf of the **Southern California Indicated Producers and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 11-11-002, Phase 2—November 16, 2012)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Southern California Indicated Producers and Watson Cogeneration Company** (A. 11-11-002, Phase 2—December 14, 2012)
    - *Allocation and recovery of natural gas pipeline safety costs.*
77. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 12-12-002—May 10, 2013)
  - *Electric rate design for commercial & industrial solar customers; marginal costs.*
78. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 13-04-012—December 13, 2013)
  - *Electric rate design for commercial & industrial solar customers; marginal costs.*
79. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 13-12-015—June 30, 2014)
  - *Electric rate design for commercial & industrial solar customers; residential time-of-use rate design issues.*

80.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Calpine Corporation** and the **Indicated Shippers** (A. 13-12-012—August 11, 2014)
  - b. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Calpine Corporation, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Gas Transmission Northwest, and the City of Palo Alto** (A. 13-12-012—August 11, 2014)
  - c. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Calpine Corporation** (A. 13-12-012—September 15, 2014)
  - d. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Calpine Corporation, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Gas Transmission Northwest, and the City of Palo Alto** (A. 13-12-012—September 15, 2014)
  - *Rate design, cost allocation, and revenue requirement issues for the gas transmission system of a major natural gas utility.*
81. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (R. 12-06-013—September 15, 2014)
  - *Comprehensive review of policies for rate design for residential electric customers in California.*
82. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 14-06-014—March 13, 2015)
  - *Electric rate design for commercial & industrial solar customers; marginal costs.*
83.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A.14-11-014—May 1, 2015)
  - b. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 14-11-014—May 26, 2015)
  - *Time-of-use periods for residential TOU rates.*
84. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Joint Solar Parties** (R. 14-07-002 — September 30, 2015)
  - *Electric rate design issues concerning proposals for the net energy metering successor tariff in California.*
85. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 15-04-012—July 5, 2016)
  - *Selection of Time-of-Use periods, and rate design issues for solar customers.*



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86. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 16-09-003 — April 28, 2017)
  - *Selection of Time-of-Use periods, and rate design issues for solar customers.*
87. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 17-06-030 — March 23, 2018)
  - *Selection of Time-of-Use periods, and rate design issues for solar customers.*
88. Prepared Direct and Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Calpine Corporation** (A. 17-11-009 – July 20 and August 20, 2018)
  - *Gas transportation rates for electric generators, gas storage and balancing issues*
89. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Gas Transmission Northwest LLC** and the **City of Palo Alto** (A. 17-11-009 – July 20, 2018)
  - *Rate design for intrastate backbone gas transportation rates*
90. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **EVgo** (A. 18-11-003 – April 5, 2019)
  - *Electric rate design for commercial electric vehicle charging*
91. Prepared Direct and Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Vote Solar** and the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (R. 14-10-003 — October 7 and 21, 2019)
  - *Avoided cost issues for distributed energy resources*
92. Prepared Direct and Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **EVgo** (A. 19-07-006 – January 13 and February 20, 2020)
  - *Electric rate design for commercial electric vehicle charging*
93. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (A. 19-03-002 — March 17, 2020)
  - *Electric rate design issues for solar and storage customers*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

1. Prepared Direct, Rebuttal, and Supplemental Testimony on behalf of **The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC)**, (Docket No. E-00000J-14-0023, February 27, April 7, and June 22, 2016).
  - *Development of a benefit-cost methodology for distributed, net metered solar resources in Arizona.*
2. Prepared Surrebuttal and Responsive Testimony on behalf of the **Energy Freedom Coalition of America** (Docket No. E-01933A-15-0239 – March 10 and September 15, 2016).
  - *Critique of a utility-owned solar program; comments on a fixed rate credit to replace net energy metering.*
3. Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association** (Docket No. E-01345A-16-0036, February 3, 2017).
4. Direct and Surrebuttal Testimony on behalf of **The Alliance for Solar Choice and the Energy Freedom Coalition of America** (Docket Nos. E-01933A-15-0239 (TEP), E-01933A-15-0322 (TEP), and E-04204A-15-0142 (UNSE) – May 17 and September 29, 2017).

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COLORADO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

1. Direct Testimony and Exhibits on behalf of the **Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association** and the **Solar Alliance**, (Docket No. 09AL-299E – October 2, 2009).  
[https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/DDMS\\_Public.Display\\_Document?p\\_section=PUC&p\\_source=EFI\\_PRIVATE&p\\_doc\\_id=3470190&p\\_doc\\_key=0CD8F7FCDB673F1043928849D9D8CAB1&p\\_handle\\_not\\_found=Y](https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/DDMS_Public.Display_Document?p_section=PUC&p_source=EFI_PRIVATE&p_doc_id=3470190&p_doc_key=0CD8F7FCDB673F1043928849D9D8CAB1&p_handle_not_found=Y)
  - *Electric rate design policies to encourage the use of distributed solar generation.*
2. Direct Testimony and Exhibits on behalf of the **Vote Solar Initiative** and the **Interstate Renewable Energy Council**, (Docket No. 11A-418E – September 21, 2011).
  - *Development of a community solar program for Xcel Energy.*
3. Answer Testimony and Exhibits, plus Opening Testimony on Settlement, on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association**, (Docket No. 16AL-0048E [Phase II] – June 6 and September 2, 2016).
  - *Rate design issues related to residential customers and solar distributed generation in a Public Service of Colorado general rate case.*

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**Principal Consultant**

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**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

1. Direct Testimony on behalf of **Georgia Interfaith Power & Light and Southface Energy Institute, Inc.** (Docket No. 40161 – May 3, 2016).
  - *Development of a cost-effectiveness methodology for solar resources in Georgia.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

1. Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Idaho Conservation League** (Case No. IPC-E-12-27—May 10, 2013)
  - *Costs and benefits of net energy metering in Idaho.*
2.
  - a. Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Idaho Conservation League and the Sierra Club** (Case Nos. IPC-E-15-01/AVU-4-15-01/PAC-E-15-03 — April 23, 2015)
  - b. Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Idaho Conservation League and the Sierra Club** (Case Nos. IPC-E-15-01/AVU-4-15-01/PAC-E-15-03 — May 14, 2015)
  - *Issues concerning the term of PURPA contracts in Idaho.*
2.
  - a. Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Sierra Club** (Case No. IPC-E-17-13 — December 22, 2017)
  - b. Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Sierra Club** (Case No. IPC-E-17-13 — January 26, 2018)

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

1. Direct and Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **Northeast Clean Energy Council, Inc.** (Docket D.P.U. 15-155, March 18 and April 28, 2016)
  - *Residential rate design and access fee proposals related to distributed generation in a National Grid general rate case.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

1. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **Vote Solar** (Case No. U-18419—January 12, 2018)
2. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of the **Environmental Law and Policy Center, the Ecology Center, the Solar energy Industries Association, Vote Solar, and the Union of Concerned Scientists** (Case No. U-18419 — February 2, 2018)

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

1. Direct and Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of **Geronimo Energy, LLC**. (In the Matter of the Petition of Northern States Power Company to Initiate a Competitive Resource Acquisition Process [OAH Docket No. 8-2500-30760, MPUC Docket No. E002/CN-12-1240, September 27 and October 18, 2013])
  - *Testimony in support of a competitive bid from a distributed solar project in an all-source solicitation for generating capacity.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

1. Pre-filed Direct and Supplemental Testimony on Behalf of **Vote Solar and the Montana Environmental Information Center** (Docket No. D2016.5.39, October 14 and November 9, 2016).
  - *Avoided cost pricing issues for solar QFs in Montana.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA**

1. Pre-filed Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Nevada Geothermal Industry Council** (Docket No. 97-2001—May 28, 1997)
  - *Avoided cost pricing for the electric output of geothermal generation facilities in Nevada.*
2. Pre-filed Direct Testimony on Behalf of **Nevada Sun-Peak Limited Partnership** (Docket No. 97-6008—September 5, 1997)
  - *QF pricing issues in Nevada.*
3. Pre-filed Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Nevada Geothermal Industry Council** (Docket No. 98-2002 — June 18, 1998)
  - *Market-based, avoided cost pricing for the electric output of geothermal generation facilities in Nevada.*
4.
  - a. Prepared Direct Testimony on behalf of **The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC)**, (Docket Nos. 15-07041 and 15-07042 –October 27, 2015).
  - b. Prepared Direct Testimony on Grandfathering Issues on behalf of **TASC**, (Docket Nos. 15-07041 and 15-07042 –February 1, 2016).

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- c. Prepared Rebuttal Testimony on Grandfathering Issues on behalf of **TASC**, (Docket Nos. 15-07041 and 15-07042 –February 5, 2016).
- *Net energy metering and rate design issues in Nevada.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

- 1. Prepared Direct and Rebuttal Testimony on behalf of **The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC)**, (Docket No. DE 16-576, October 24 and December 21, 2016).
- *Net energy metering and rate design issues in New Hampshire.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION**

- 1. Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Interstate Renewable Energy Council** (Case No. 10-00086-UT—February 28, 2011)  
<http://164.64.85.108/infodocs/2011/3/PRS20156810DOC.PDF>
  - *Testimony on proposed standby rates for new distributed generation projects; cost-effectiveness of DG in New Mexico.*
- 2. Direct Testimony and Exhibits on behalf of the **New Mexico Independent Power Producers** (Case No. 11-00265-UT, October 3, 2011)
  - *Cost cap for the Renewable Portfolio Standard program in New Mexico*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

- 1. Direct, Response, and Rebuttal Testimony on Behalf of the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association. (In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities – 2014; Docket E-100 Sub 140; April 25, May 30, and June 20, 2014)
  - *Testimony on avoided cost issues related to solar and renewable qualifying facilities in North Carolina.*

April 25, 2014: <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=89f3b50f-17cb-4218-87bd-c743e1238bc1>

May 30, 2014: <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=19e0b58d-a7f6-4d0d-9f4a-08260e561443>

June 20, 2014: <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/ViewFile.aspx?Id=bd549755-d1b8-4c9b-b4a1-fc6e0bd2f9a2>

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2. Direct Testimony on Behalf of the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association. (In the Matter of Biennial Determination of Avoided Cost Rates for Electric Utility Purchases from Qualifying Facilities – 2018; Docket E-100 Sub 158; June 21, 2019)
  - *Testimony on avoided cost issues related to solar and renewable qualifying facilities in North Carolina.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OREGON**

1.
  - a. Direct Testimony of Behalf of **Weyerhaeuser Company** (UM 1129 — August 3, 2004)
  - b. Surrebuttal Testimony of Behalf of **Weyerhaeuser Company** (UM 1129 — October 14, 2004)
2.
  - a. Direct Testimony of Behalf of **Weyerhaeuser Company and the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities** (UM 1129 / Phase II — February 27, 2006)
  - b. Rebuttal Testimony of Behalf of **Weyerhaeuser Company and the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities** (UM 1129 / Phase II — April 7, 2006)
  - *Policies to promote the development of cogeneration and other qualifying facilities in Oregon.*
3. Direct Testimony on Behalf of the **Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association** (UM 1910,01911, and 1912 — March 16, 2018).
  - *Resource value of solar resources in Oregon*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

1. Direct Testimony and Exhibits on behalf of **The Alliance for Solar Choice** (Docket No. 2014-246-E – December 11, 2014)  
<https://dms.psc.sc.gov/attachments/matter/B7BACF7A-155D-141F-236BC437749BEF85>
  - *Methodology for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of net energy metering*

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**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF TEXAS**

1. Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)** (Docket No. 44941 – December 11, 2015)
  - *Rate design issues concerning net metering and renewable distributed generation in an El Paso Electric general rate case.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH**

1. Direct Testimony on behalf of the **Sierra Club** (Docket No. 15-035-53—September 15, 2015)
  - *Issues concerning the term of PURPA contracts in Idaho.*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

1. Pre-filed Testimony of R. Thomas Beach and Patrick McGuire on Behalf of **Allco Renewable Energy Limited** (Docket No. 8010 — September 26, 2014)
  - *Avoided cost pricing issues in Vermont*

**EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE VIRGINIA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

Direct Testimony and Exhibits on Behalf of the Maryland – District of Columbia – Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association, (Case No. PUE-2011-00088, October 11, 2011)  
<http://www.scc.virginia.gov/docketsearch/DOCS/2gx%2501!.PDF>

- *Cost-effectiveness of, and standby rates for, net-metered solar customers.*

**LITIGATION EXPERIENCE**

Mr. Beach has been retained as an expert in a variety of civil litigation matters. His work has included the preparation of reports on the following topics:

- The calculation of damages in disputes over the pricing terms of natural gas sales contracts (2 separate cases).
- The valuation of a contract for the purchase of power produced from wind generators.
- The compliance of cogeneration facilities with the policies and regulations applicable to Qualifying Facilities (QFs) under PURPA in California.
- Audit reports on the obligations of buyers and sellers under direct access electric contracts in the California market (2 separate cases).
- The valuation of interstate pipeline capacity contracts (3 separate cases).

In several of these matters, Mr. Beach was deposed by opposing counsel. Mr. Beach has also testified at trial in the bankruptcy of a major U.S. energy company, and has been retained as a consultant in anti-trust litigation concerning the California natural gas market in the period prior to and during the 2000-2001 California energy crisis.



## EXHIBIT RTB-2

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

South Carolina Energy Freedom Act  
(H.3659) Proceeding Initiated Pursuant  
to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-40-  
20(C): Generic Docket to (1)  
Investigate and Determine the Costs  
and Benefits of the Current Net Energy  
Metering Program and (2) Establish a  
Methodology for Calculating the Value  
of the Energy Produced by Customer-  
Generators

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**DOCKET NO. 2019-182-E**

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

**R. THOMAS BEACH**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL CONSERVATION LEAGUE, SOUTHERN  
ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY, UPSTATE FOREVER, VOTE  
SOLAR, THE SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, and THE  
NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION**

**October 29, 2020**

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I. INTRODUCTION

Q: PLEASE STATE FOR THE RECORD YOUR NAME, POSITION, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A: My name is R. Thomas Beach. I am principal consultant of the consulting firm Crossborder Energy. My business address is 2560 Ninth Street, Suite 213A, Berkeley, California 94710.

Q: HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A: Yes, on October 8, 2020, I submitted direct testimony on behalf of the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Upstate Forever, Vote Solar, the Solar Energy Industries Association, and the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association. My experience and qualifications are presented in my CV, which is Exhibit RTB-1 to my direct testimony.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

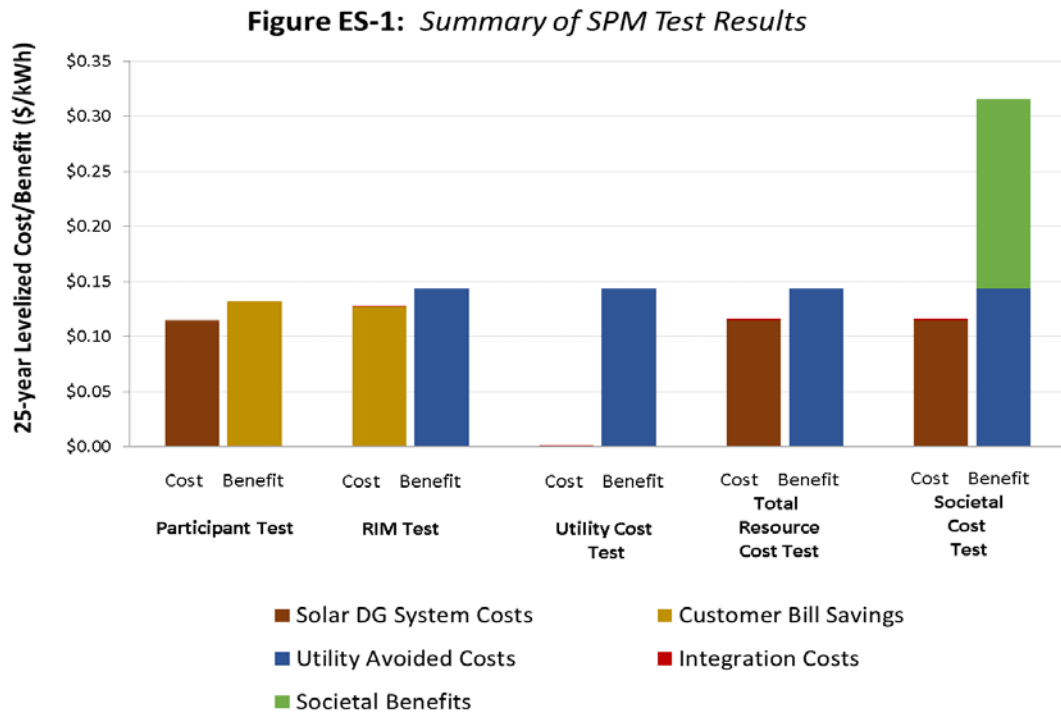
Q: PLEASE PRESENT A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR REBUTTAL.

A: This rebuttal testimony focuses first on the benefit and cost numbers for residential solar presented in the testimony of Dominion Energy South Carolina (DESC or Dominion). DESC fails to consider and quantify all of the benefits and costs of DERs that the Commission adopted in Order No. 2015-194 and that Act 62 states should be considered in evaluating the upcoming Solar Choice tariffs. In some cases (such as avoided energy costs), the utility does not analyze the benefits over the full 25-year economic life of distributed solar resources. With respect to other quantifiable benefits (such as avoided capacity costs for transmission and distribution, avoided fuel hedging costs, and avoided costs to reduce carbon emissions), the utility testimony is silent.

In response, this rebuttal quantifies the full slate of the benefits and costs of distributed solar on the DESC system, revising many of DESC Witness Margot

Everett's numbers and providing several benefits that DESC does not recognize.

I then apply the full set of Standard Practice Manual (SPM) cost-effectiveness tests to residential solar on the DESC system. The following **Figure ES-1** shows the results:



At this time, residential solar on the DESC system appears to pass all of the SPM cost-effectiveness tests. As a result, there is not presently a cost shift from solar customers to non-participating ratepayers, and distributed solar is a cost-effective resource for DESC ratepayers. There is also a small net benefit for customers who install solar, indicating that the market should continue to grow, albeit slowly, under the present net metering tariffs. Finally, there are significant, quantifiable societal benefits from distributed solar, including public health benefits from reduced air pollution and from mitigating the damages from carbon emissions.

I recommend that a similar analysis should be applied to the Solar Choice tariffs that DESC and the other South Carolina utilities may propose in future utility-specific proceedings pursuant to Act 62.

1 Finally, my testimony responds briefly to the opening testimony of the  
2 Office of Regulatory Staff (ORA) on a cost-of-service issue for the Duke Energy  
3 utilities and on the possible impacts of Solar Choice tariffs on low-income  
4 customers.

5 **III. RESPONSE TO DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA**

6 **Q: PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCERNS WITH DESC'S**  
7 **TESTIMONY ON THE METHODS TO BE USED TO DEVELOP SOLAR**  
8 **CHOICE TARIFFS PURSUANT TO ACT 62.**

9 A. My direct testimony discusses the five key attributes of a benefit/cost  
10 methodology for net-metered distributed energy resources (DERs) that is  
11 consistent with Act 62. Two of these attributes are that the method should:

- 12 • consider a comprehensive list of benefits and costs and,
- 13 • use a long-term, life-cycle analysis.

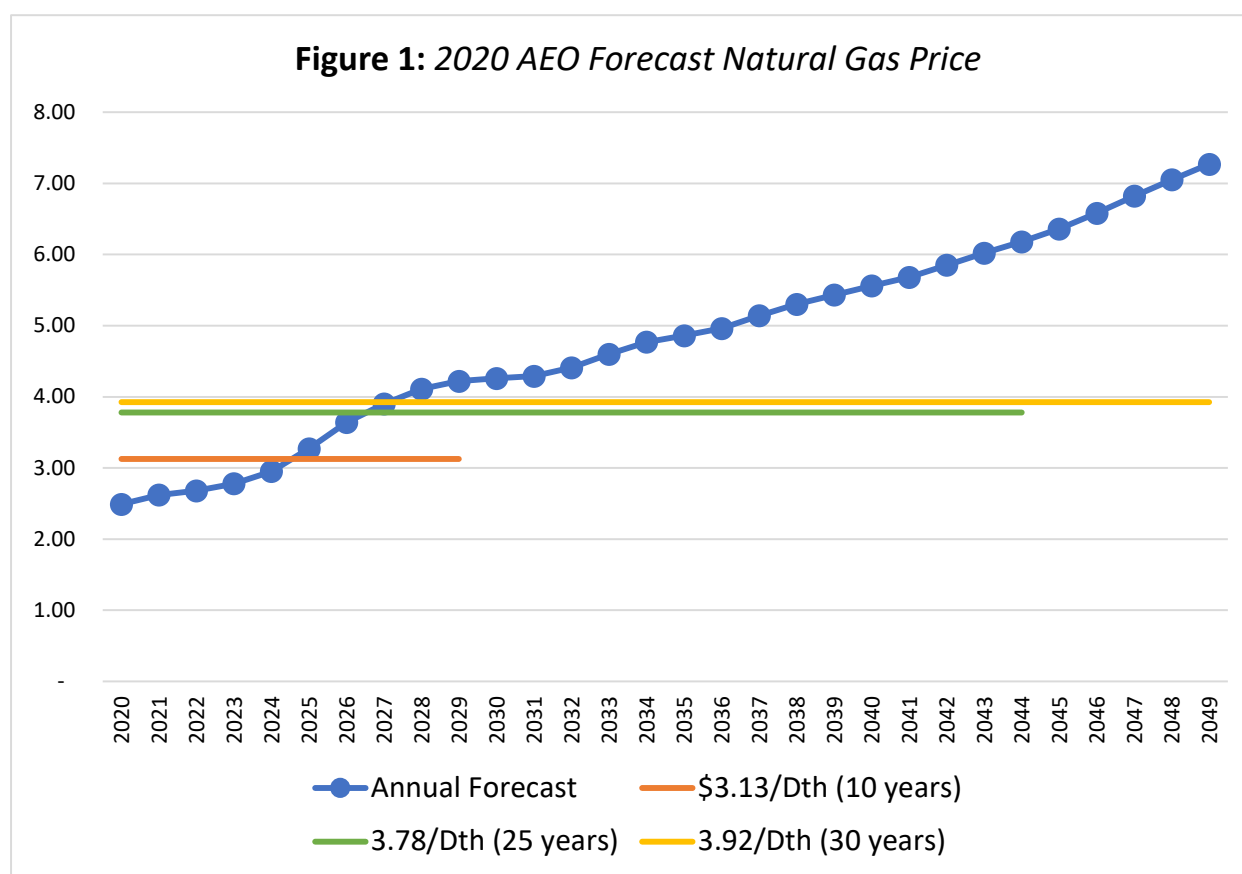
14 As discussed below, the testimony of DESC witness Everett does not consider  
15 and quantify all of the benefits and costs of DERs and does not analyze them over  
16 the full 25-year economic life of the distributed solar resources that will be  
17 developed under the Solar Choice tariffs. This rebuttal presents my own  
18 calculation of the benefits and costs of distributed solar today on the DESC  
19 system; I revise many of DESC Witness Everett's numbers and supply several  
20 benefits that DESC does not recognize.

21 **A. Avoided Cost of Energy**

22 **Q: WHAT ARE THE AVOIDED ENERGY BENEFITS OF A SOLAR**  
23 **PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PROJECT?**

24 A: New solar generation will displace the marginal source of electric energy on the  
25 Dominion system. To calculate avoided energy costs, DESC Witness Everett's  
26 testimony appears to use Dominion's 10-year levelized energy prices by time-of-  
27 use (TOU) period that are included in its standard offer Power Purchase  
28 Agreement tariff (PR-1). These avoided energy costs should be extended to the

25-year economic life of a solar system. To estimate avoided energy costs over a 25-year horizon, I started with DESC's 10-year levelized PR-1 energy prices, then escalated these ten-year levelized energy prices based on the increase in levelized natural gas prices over a 25-year forecast period versus a 10-year period. With gas-fired generation expected to be the predominant marginal resource on the DESC system in the future, it is reasonable to expect that marginal energy costs will escalate with natural gas costs over time. For this step, I used the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) 2020 *Annual Energy Outlook* (AEO) forecast of natural gas prices at the Henry Hub, Louisiana. **Figure 1** below shows that gas price forecast, as well as the levelized prices over various terms. The 25-year levelized price represents a 21% percent increase over the 10-year levelized price, assuming an 8.5% discount rate corresponding to DESC's weighted average cost of capital.



Applying these increases in levelized natural gas prices to Schedule PR-1 prices results in the avoided energy rates shown in **Table 2** below. **Table 1** shows the Schedule PR-1 energy prices from which I started. These are the avoided energy benefits that a solar project can provide, expressed on a TOU basis.

**Table 1:** Schedule PR-1 Energy Credits for a 10-year Period (\$/kWh)

TOU Period	June-September	October-May
On Peak	\$0.03105	0.03252
Off Peak	\$0.02751	0.02893

**Table 2:** Escalated Energy Credits for a 25-year Period (\$/kWh)

TOU Period	June-September	October-May
On Peak	\$0.03754	0.03931
Off Peak	\$0.03326	0.03487

**Q: HAVE YOU ESTIMATED AN AVERAGE 25-YEAR LEVELIZED PRICE FOR THE AVOIDED ENERGY BENEFITS OF SOLAR PV?**

A: Yes. Based on DESC's TOU periods<sup>1</sup> and estimated annual solar output by TOU period,<sup>2</sup> I computed the following weighted average prices for a typical solar PV project:

**Table 3:** Annual Average Solar PV Energy Credits \$/kWh

Term	Avoided Energy Benefit
10 years (2020-2029)	0.03056
25 years (2020-2044)	0.03694

<sup>1</sup> The peak period for DESC is Hour Ending (HE) 11-22 in May to October, and HE 7-13 & 18-22 in November to April.

<sup>2</sup> I estimate solar output using the National Renewable Energy Lab's PVWATTS tool. I assumed the default PV Watts settings for a rooftop PV system in Charleston, SC. These include a 4.0 kW-DC system size, fixed 20-degree tilt, south-facing orientation, and a 1.2 DC to AC inverter loading ratio.



1 **Q: DO YOU BELIEVE THESE ARE REASONABLE AVOIDED ENERGY**  
2 **BENEFITS?**

3 A: Yes. Dividing the solar weighted average energy price (0.0306 \$/kWh over ten  
4 years), net of variable O&M, by the 2020 AEO forecast price of natural gas  
5 (\$3.13 per Dth), adjusted for transportation, results in a market heat rate of about  
6 6,500 Btu/kWh.<sup>3</sup> This is not an unreasonable assumption if solar displaces  
7 conventional natural gas-fired generation from an efficient Combined Cycle Gas  
8 Turbine (CCGT) in most hours. This relatively low market heat rate may reflect  
9 some hours when non-gas resources with lower variable costs than a CCGT are  
10 on the margin.

11 **B. Avoided Generation Capacity**

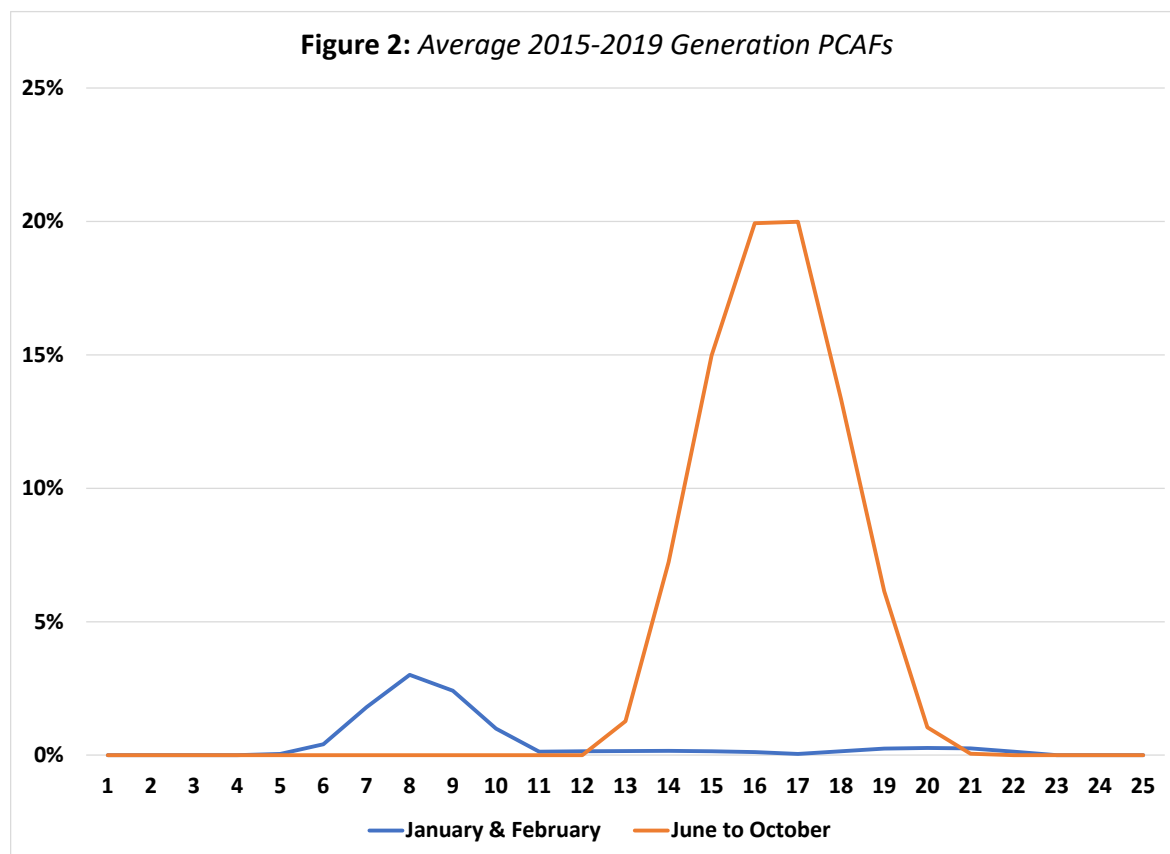
12 **Q: WHAT ISSUES HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED WITH DESC'S STATED**  
13 **AVOIDED GENERATION CAPACITY COSTS FOR A SOLAR PV**  
14 **PROJECT?**

15 A: The most significant issue is the capacity contribution of solar to avoiding  
16 DESC's need for generation capacity. To estimate solar's capacity contribution  
17 in the recent past, I looked at five years of hourly DESC loads, from 2015 to  
18 2019, as reported to FERC in Form 714, and developed a Peak Capacity  
19 Allocation Factor (PCAF) for each hour of the year, based on the extent to which  
20 hourly load exceeds 90% of the annual peak hour's load. Due to the potential for  
21 both summer and winter peaks, it is important to look at a five-year period to  
22 capture the relative frequency of these seasonal peaks. This results in probability  
23 weights in each hour and month of the year that are concentrated on afternoon  
24 hours in summer months and on morning hours in January, as shown in **Figure**

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<sup>3</sup> Assuming variable O&M equal to \$0.00255 per kWh, from Table 2 of EIA's February 2020 report on capital cost benchmarks (at [https://www.eia.gov/analysis/studies/powerplants/capitalcost/pdf/capital\\_cost\\_AEO2020.pdf](https://www.eia.gov/analysis/studies/powerplants/capitalcost/pdf/capital_cost_AEO2020.pdf)), and gas transportation cost of \$1.20 per MMBtu, this calculation is  $(\$30.60/\text{MWh} - \$2.55/\text{MWh}) \times 1000 / (\$3.13/\text{Dth} + \$1.20/\text{Dth}) = 6,472 \text{ Btu/kWh}$ .

1           2 below. The smaller allocation of generation PCAFs to the winter reflects the  
2           shorter and less frequent utility peaks during winter cold snaps.



3  
4           Applying a solar profile to the PCAF distribution results in a solar PV capacity  
5           contribution of 34%. Thus, I assume that 34% of a solar PV project's capacity  
6           may be assumed to contribute to meeting DESC's capacity needs in its peak load  
7           hours.

8           **Q: WHAT ARE DESC'S AVOIDED GENERATION CAPACITY COSTS?**

9           A: The approach that I used to calculate the DESC's long-run avoided capacity costs  
10          for generation is based on the cost of a new combustion turbine (CT), as the  
11          marginal source of capacity. Various sources exist to estimate this cost. DESC's  
12          2020 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) indicates that the capital cost of a new CT  
13          is \$918 per kW.<sup>4</sup> Alternatively, the EIA's report on capacity cost benchmarks,

<sup>4</sup> See the table at page 39 of the DESC 2020 IRP.

referenced in footnote 3 above, indicates a CT capital cost in the range of \$713 per kW (for 237 MW from a 1 x GE 7FA) to \$1,150 per kW (for 105 MW from 2 x LM6000 units), with an average of \$944 per kW.

In the calculation below, I have used the DESC IRP CT capital cost of \$918 per kW; this CT unit is in all of the utility's resource plan scenarios.<sup>5</sup> The following **Table 4** shows that, after using a real economic carrying charge (RECC) factor to annualize the capital cost, adding a 14% reserve margin, applying the 34% capacity contribution for solar PV, and dividing by expected annual solar output, the avoided generation capacity cost for a solar PV project is \$0.01351 per kWh. This can be compared to the current Schedule PR-1 capacity credit of \$0.00379 per kWh. However, when the current credit is adjusted upward for my recommended 34% solar capacity contribution, rather than the 11% solar capacity contribution adopted in amended QF Order No. 2019-847, the result is a similar avoided cost capacity value of about \$0.012 per kWh.

**Table 4:** Avoided Generation Capacity Costs

<i>line</i>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Value</b>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>A</i>	CT Cost (\$ per kW)	918	<i>Based on DESC IRP</i>
<i>B</i>	RECC Annualization Factor	7.4%	<i>Calculated RECC</i>
<i>C</i>	Annual Cost of New Capacity (\$/kW-year)	67.93	<i>A x B</i>
<i>D</i>	Plus 14% Reserve Margin (\$/kW-year)	77.44	<i>IRP Summer PRM</i>
<i>E</i>	Solar Capacity Contribution	34%	<i>PCAF Analysis</i>
<i>F</i>	Avoided Generation Capacity (\$/kW-year)	23.10	<i>D x E</i>
<i>G</i>	Solar Annual Output (kWh per kW)	1,709	<i>PVWATTS Charleston</i>
<i>H</i>	Avoided Generation Capacity (\$/kWh)	0.01351	<i>F / G</i>

### **C. Avoided Energy and Capacity Losses**

**Q: DO YOU AGREE WITH DESC WITNESS EVERETT THAT THE POWER EXPORTED FROM DISTRIBUTED SOLAR FACILITIES DOES NOT AVOID DISTRIBUTION LINE LOSSES?<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>5</sup> DESC 2020 IRP, at pp. 40-41.

<sup>6</sup> See DESC Testimony (Everett), at pp. 16-17.

1 A: No, I do not. Assuming that the penetration of distributed solar is low, as it is in  
 2 South Carolina today, the power exported from a small customer-owned solar  
 3 system on the distribution system will be consumed by the solar customer's  
 4 immediate neighbors. These exports will displace system power that otherwise  
 5 would need to be delivered to the neighbors from remote utility-scale generation  
 6 over the utility's entire upstream transmission and distribution facilities. The  
 7 avoided system power for the neighbors would have been transmitted and  
 8 distributed over virtually the same distance as the power that the solar customer  
 9 avoids by serving its own load behind the meter. As a result, the avoided line  
 10 losses associated with exports from distributed solar will be very similar to the  
 11 avoided losses for the power consumed behind the solar customer's meter. In  
 12 essence, because the exports from distributed solar move such a short distance  
 13 over the distribution system before they are consumed by the neighbors, the  
 14 avoided line losses will not be significantly different than the avoided losses from  
 15 power consumed behind the meter.<sup>7</sup>

16 **Q: PLEASE DISCUSS THE ENERGY AND CAPACITY LINE LOSSES**  
 17 **THAT DISTRIBUTED SOLAR WILL AVOID.**

18 A: The avoided energy and capacity costs calculated above are at the generation  
 19 level. A solar PV project located behind a customer's meter avoids marginal line  
 20 losses on both the DESC transmission and distribution systems for its entire  
 21 output. Thus, based on DESC's marginal energy and capacity losses, I have  
 22 calculated the following avoided line losses.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> This situation will change only if the penetration of distributed solar grows to the point that distributed solar output exceeds the midday minimum load on many distribution circuits, such that solar exports backfeed up these circuits to the nearest distribution substation. This issue has become significant only in a market such as Hawaii, where solar penetration has reached about 20% of residential customers. This is far higher than the current residential solar penetration in South Carolina.

<sup>8</sup> Provided in response to Question 16a of the first data request of Vote Solar, *et al.* to DESC.

**Table 5: Avoided Line Losses**

Component	%	\$/kWh
Avoided Energy Losses	8%	0.00204
Avoided Capacity Losses	15%	0.00305
Total Avoided Losses		0.00493

**D. Avoided transmission and distribution capacity**

**Q: DESC WITNESS EVERETT DOES NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF AVOIDED TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION (T&D) CAPACITY COSTS ON THE DESC SYSTEM. DOES A SOLAR PV PROJECT AVOID T&D CAPACITY COSTS?**

**A:** Yes. Because a solar PV project's output will serve much of a customer's on-site load, without ever flowing onto the grid, DESC may expect to see reduced loads on its T&D system. The remaining power that is be exported to the grid is likely to be substantially consumed by neighboring distribution loads, thus unloading the upstream DESC transmission and distribution systems.

**Q: HOW DID YOU DETERMINE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOLAR OUTPUT TO AVOIDED TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CAPACITY COSTS?**

**A:** Solar avoids transmission and distribution (T&D) investments by reducing peak loads on the DESC T&D system. Similar to my Peak Capacity Allocation Factor (PCAF) analysis for generation capacity contributions from solar PV, I performed PCAF analyses based on transmission system and distribution system hourly loads provided by DESC. This load data includes hourly loads at each DESC transmission and distribution substation.<sup>9</sup> Compared to my PCAF analysis of the solar contribution to generation capacity (which was based on

<sup>9</sup> The inputs to the PCAF analyses I performed for transmission and distribution were, respectively, DESC's hourly transmission bank and distribution substation loads. I calculated a weighted average transmission PCAF by weighting the PCAF allocations for each transmission bank by its maximum load; similarly, the distribution PCAF allocation weighted the PCAF allocations for each distribution substation according to DESC-indicated capacity of each distribution substation.

1 system load data), the T&D PCAF analyses show similar, but modestly higher,  
2 solar capacity contributions of 43% for transmission and 36% for distribution.

3 To estimate the marginal cost of T&D capacity, I have used the well-  
4 accepted National Economic Research Associates (NERA) regression method.  
5 This approach is used by many utilities to determine their marginal transmission  
6 and distribution capacity costs that vary with changes in load. The NERA  
7 regression model fits incremental T&D investment costs to peak load growth.  
8 The slope of the resulting regression line provides an estimate of the marginal  
9 cost of T&D investments associated with changes in peak demand.<sup>10</sup> To capture  
10 long-run marginal costs, the NERA methodology typically uses at least 15 years  
11 of data on T&D investments and peak transmission system loads. This data is  
12 historical data reported in FERC Form 1, plus a current forecast of future  
13 investments and expected load growth if available. I have utilized NERA  
14 regressions based on DESC's historical peak load growth and transmission and  
15 distribution investments over the period from 2009 to 2025, using DESC's FERC  
16 Form 1 data for the historical portion of this period through 2019, as well as a  
17 six-year forecast of T&D investments and load growth (2020-2025). I add  
18 loaders for the operations and maintenance (O&M) and administration and  
19 general (A&G) costs associated with these investments in T&D rate base. These  
20 loaders are based on Form 1 data on T&D O&M and A&G costs as percentages  
21 of rate base investments.

22 The testimony of Brian Horii for the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS)  
23 observes that these regressions based on coincident peak demand overstate  
24 marginal T&D costs, because the sum of the noncoincident peak loads on the  
25 elements of the T&D system that drive investments are higher than the coincident  
26 system peak loads used in the denominator of marginal T&D costs.<sup>11</sup> I agree that

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<sup>10</sup> It is important to keep in mind that peak load growth is a proxy for growth in T&D capacity. Some utilities – for example, Southern California Edison – track their T&D system capacity over time and use this data directly in the regression.

<sup>11</sup> See direct testimony of Brian Horii on behalf of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, at pages 29-30.

this observation has merit, particularly given that my PCAF analysis also looks at a range of hours with loads within 10% of the peak hour, and not just at the peak hour. Accordingly, I have included 27% and 23% downward adjustments to the avoided transmission and distribution capacity costs, respectively, to recognize that marginal T&D costs per unit of noncoincident peak loads on the T&D systems are lower than the marginal T&D costs per unit of coincident system peak loads. DESC's distribution load data indicates that the coincident system peak load is 23% lower than the sum of noncoincident peak distribution substation loads. Similarly, the coincident peak load on the transmission system is 27% lower than the sum of non-coincident transmission bank peak loads.

My analysis results in dollars per kW values for avoided T&D capacity, which I annualize using a RECC factor. I then multiply these annualized values by the PCAF-based solar contribution to avoiding T&D capacity. Finally, to express this avoided transmission cost on the basis of dollars per MWh of solar output, I divide by the expected annual output of distributed solar PV, in kWh per kW. The final step I perform is to assume these costs will increase with inflation and to levelize them over 25 years at an 8.5% discount rate. The following **Tables 6 and 7** show the results of my calculation of the DESC avoided T&D capacity costs.

**Table 6:** Avoided Transmission Capacity Costs

<i>Line</i>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>A</i>	Avoided Transmission Capacity (\$/kW-year)	63.56	<i>NERA method</i>
<i>B</i>	Solar Capacity Contribution	42.5%	<i>PCAF method</i>
<i>C</i>	Solar Annual Output (kWh per kW)	1,709	<i>From PVWATTS</i>
<i>D</i>	Avoided Transmission Capacity (\$/kWh)	0.01581	$A \times B / C$
<i>E</i>	Adjusted for 25-year Levelized Value	0.01861	$D \times 1.18$

**Table 7:** Avoided Distribution Capacity Costs

<i>Line</i>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>A</i>	Avoided Distribution Capacity (\$/kW-year)	92.57	<i>NERA method</i>
<i>B</i>	Solar Capacity Contribution	35.6%	<i>PCAF method</i>
<i>C</i>	Solar Annual Output (kWh per kW)	1,709	<i>From PVWATTS</i>
<i>D</i>	Avoided Distribution Capacity (\$/kWh)	0.01928	$A \times B / C$
<i>E</i>	Adjusted for 25-year Levelized Value	0.02270	$D \times 1.18$

1 The sum of these avoided transmission and distribution costs is \$0.04131 per  
2 kWh.

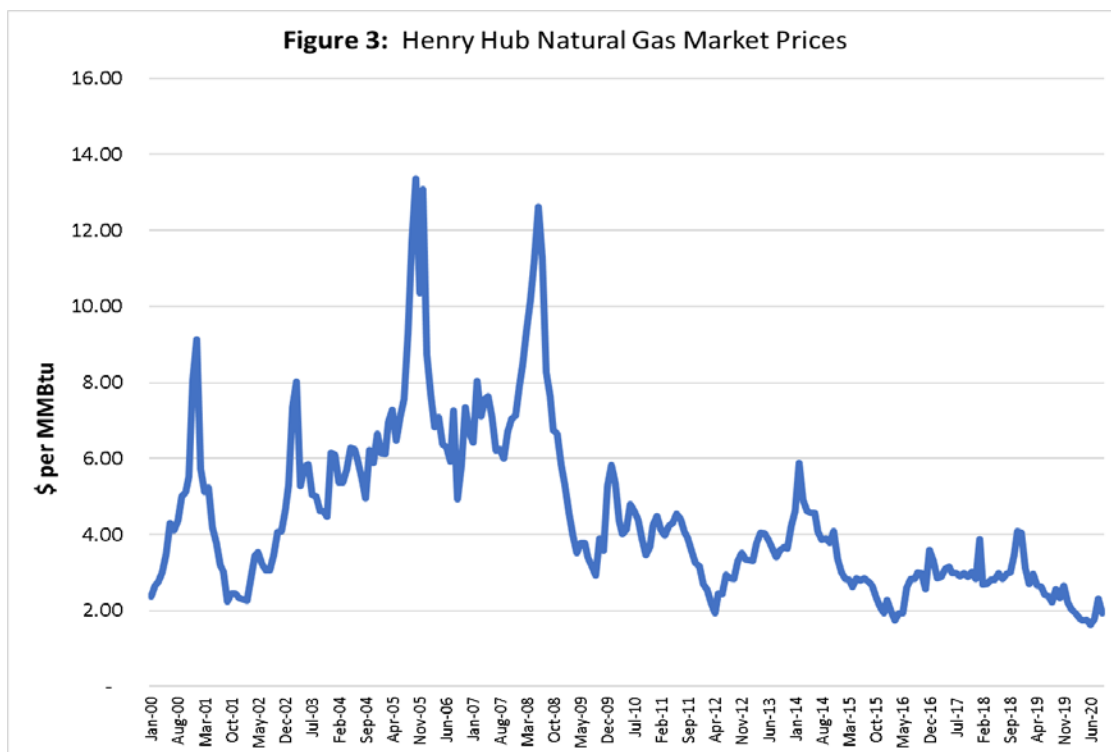
3 **E. Fuel Hedge Benefits**

4 **Q: DESC WITNESS EVERETT DOES NOT DISCUSS OR INCLUDE A**  
5 **FUEL HEDGE BENEFIT. SHOULD SUCH A BENEFIT BE INCLUDED?**

6 A: Yes. Renewable generation, such as solar PV, reduces a utility's use of natural  
7 gas, and thus decreases the exposure of ratepayers to the volatility and periodic  
8 spikes in natural gas prices. Such spikes have occurred regularly over the last  
9 several decades, as shown in the plot of historical benchmark Henry Hub gas  
10 prices in **Figure 3** below.

11 Renewable generation provides a long-term hedge against volatile fuel  
12 costs for the entire 25-year economic life of, for example, a solar unit. As  
13 discussed in my opening testimony, calculations of this component underestimate  
14 this benefit by focusing on the costs of existing utility hedging programs. These  
15 programs only reduce the volatility in short-term fuel and purchased power  
16 expenses for the next one to three years. In contrast, there are substantial  
17 financial costs to establish a long-term hedge equivalent to what renewable  
18 generation provides.





**Q: HOW WOULD YOU CALCULATE THE FUEL HEDGE BENEFIT?**

A: To calculate this benefit, I follow the methodology used in the *Maine Distributed Solar Valuation Study (Maine Study)*, a 2015 study commissioned by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and authored by Clean Power Research.<sup>12</sup> This approach recognizes that one could contract for future natural gas supplies today, and then set aside in risk-free investments the money needed to buy that gas in the future. This would eliminate the uncertainty in future gas costs. The additional cost of this approach compared to purchasing gas on a “pay as you go” basis (and using the money saved for alternative investments) is the benefit of reducing the uncertainty in the costs for the fuel that solar PV displaces.

I have performed this calculation for DESC, using my base gas cost forecast (the EIA AEO 2020 forecast), U.S. Treasuries (at current yields) as the risk-free

<sup>12</sup> See Maine Public Utilities Commission, *Maine Distributed Solar Valuation Study* (March 1, 2015). Available at [http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/electricity/elect\\_generation/documents/MainePUCVOS-ExecutiveSummary.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/electricity/elect_generation/documents/MainePUCVOS-ExecutiveSummary.pdf).

1 investments, and a marginal heat rate of 6,500 Btu per kWh. The result is a value  
2 of \$0.033 per kWh as the 25-year levelized benefit of reducing fuel price  
3 uncertainty. Short-term hedge transactions do not capture this long-term fuel  
4 hedge value, given that short-run price volatility (i.e. in the next 12-months or  
5 next 3-5 years) is not the same as price volatility over a 25-year period. For  
6 example, highly liquid futures markets do not exist over a 25-year timeframe,  
7 because of the significant costs and risks involved. Instead, ratepayers bear these  
8 risks and costs over the life of a fossil-fueled resource whose fuel costs are  
9 volatile, because ratepayers ultimately “pay as you go” at the prevailing market  
10 price for fuel. Renewable generation provides a significant benefit to ratepayers  
11 by eliminating the risks of this volatility.

#### 12 F. Avoided GHG Emission Benefits

13 **Q: DESC WITNESS EVERETT DOES NOT INCLUDE A BENEFIT**  
14 **ASSOCIATED WITH AVOIDED COSTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE**  
15 **GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS. PLEASE COMMENT.**

16 **A:** My opening testimony argues that the IRPs of the South Carolina utilities,  
17 including DESC, show that reducing future carbon emissions is a significant  
18 driver of those plans and that the utilities are planning and spending money today  
19 to reduce their carbon emissions.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, the benefit associated with  
20 reducing carbon emissions should not be assumed to be zero.

21 **Q: HAVE YOU CALCULATED THIS BENEFIT?**

22 **A:** Yes. DESC’s 2020 IRP assumes carbon costs of \$25 per MT for compliance  
23 with future GHG regulations.<sup>14</sup> I assumed this cost increases with inflation at  
24 2% per year. Using the conversion factor that burning an MMBtu of natural gas  
25 produces 117 pounds of carbon dioxide, DESC’s IRP assumption for GHG  
26 compliance costs is equivalent to approximately a \$1.50 per MMBtu adder to the  
27 cost of natural gas. Assuming a 6,500 Btu/kWh marginal system heat rate, this

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<sup>13</sup> See pages 26-29 of DESC’s 2020 IRP.

<sup>14</sup> DESC 2020 IRP, at p. 44.

component becomes \$0.00951 per kWh in 2020, or \$0.01124 per kWh on a 25-year levelized basis.

### G. Summary of Benefits

**Q: PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE AVOIDED COST BENEFITS FOR SOLAR PV PROJECTS ON THE DESC SYSTEM.**

**A:** This summary is provided in **Table 8**, below.

**Table 8:** Summary of Avoided Cost Benefits

Avoided Cost Component	Value (25-year levelized \$ per kWh)
Energy	0.0383
Generation capacity	0.0135
Line losses	0.0049
Transmission capacity	0.0186
Distribution capacity	0.0227
Fuel Hedge	0.0335
GHG Compliance Costs	0.0112
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.1428</b>

### H. Bill Savings

**Q: HAVE YOU ANALYZED RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER BILL SAVINGS ON THE DESC SYSTEM?**

**A:** Yes. These savings are the primary benefit of solar for participating customers, and thus are used in the Participant Cost Test. Bill savings also are the lost revenues for the utility when a customer adopts solar, and thus are the principal cost in the RIM test.

I modeled residential bill savings for DESC's standard tiered rates for residential service. Assuming a residential customer with an annual load of 12,000 kWh per year, and a solar system sized to serve 75% of that load (i.e., solar output of 9,000 kWh per year), I estimate monthly pre-solar costs of about \$125 per month, dropping to monthly post-solar costs of \$41 per month, for bill savings of \$84 per month on the tiered rate. The portion of overall bill savings

related to the portion of solar output that is exported to the grid should be the focus of a NEM cost-benefit analysis, given that customers have rights under federal law (PURPA) to serve their own load and Act 62 specifically states that the solar choice tariff should not penalize behind-the-meter use of customer-generation.

To determine a long-term levelized value for bill savings from exported power, I escalate the savings with inflation over a 25-year period, including the effect of solar degradation over time,<sup>15</sup> then levelize the savings at an 8.5% discount rate. These bill savings for exported power are summarized in the final line of the following **Table 9**, in terms of dollars per year, per month, and per kWh of solar exports.

**Table 9:** Dominion Residential Customer Solar Bill Savings on Tiered Rate

	\$ / year	\$ / month	kWh	\$ / kWh
Pre-solar Bill	\$1,503	\$125	12,000	0.125
Post-solar Bill	\$492	\$41	3,000	0.164
Bill Savings – total	\$1,011	\$84	9,000	0.112
Delivered / imports	\$514	\$43	4,388	0.117
Exports	\$496	\$41	4,612	0.108
25-year Levelized Exports	\$561	\$47	4,433	<b>0.127</b>

#### **I. Solar Costs**

**Q: DESC WITNESS EVERETT PRESENTS A CALCULATION OF RESIDENTIAL SOLAR COSTS, INCLUDING OFFSETS FOR FEDERAL AND STATE TAX CREDITS. DESC WITNESS SCOTT ROBINSON ALSO DISCUSSES THE ASSUMPTIONS FOR SOLAR COSTS USED IN HIS ADOPTION MODEL. PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR VIEW ON THE COSTS FOR CUSTOMERS WHO ADOPT SOLAR.**

**A:** There is clearly a range of customer costs for residential and small commercial solar, based primarily on a range of capital costs in the market and whether a customer pays cash, finances the system, or signs a solar lease. I have used a

<sup>15</sup> The assumed degradation rate is 0.5% per year, which is a standard industry assumption also used by DESC (see DESC testimony [Robinson], at p. 5).

cash flow model for the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for solar. My LCOE model uses capital costs for residential solar that are based on recent reported system costs in South Carolina.<sup>16</sup> The primary assumptions in my model are shown below in **Table 10**.

**Table 10: Key Assumptions for the Levelized Cost of Residential Solar**

Assumption	Value
Median Solar Cost	\$3.10 per watt DC in 2020
Federal ITC	26% in 2020
State tax credit	25% capped at \$3,500
Financing Cost	6%
Participant discount rate	5%
Financing Term	20 years
Inverter Replacement	\$150 per kW-DC in Year 15
Maintenance Cost	\$20 per kW-DC per year

The residential solar LCOEs that I have developed are 9.4 cents per kWh for cash purchases and 11.5 cents per kWh for loan-financed systems.<sup>17</sup> I use the latter value in my SPM tests.

#### **J. Integration Costs**

**Q: HAS THE COMMISSION ADOPTED A COST TO INTEGRATE SOLAR INTO THE DESC SYSTEM?**

**A:** Yes, it has. The avoided energy costs adopted for QFs in Order No. 2020-224 in Docket No. 2019-184-E include an interim Variable and Embedded Integration Charge of \$0.94 per MWh. Thus, solar integration costs are included as an offset to the avoided energy costs calculated above. In the cost-effectiveness tests

<sup>16</sup> From the Energy Sage website, <https://news.energysage.com/how-much-does-the-average-solar-panel-installation-cost-in-the-u-s/>.

<sup>17</sup> Costs for leased system may be higher than this range, because leased systems do not qualify for the 25% state tax credit.

provided below, I have removed the integration costs from the avoided energy costs (on the benefit side of the tests) in order to show them as a distinct cost (on the cost side of the tests).

#### K. Societal Benefits

**Q: DESC WITNESS EVERETT DOES NOT DISCUSS OR ATTEMPT TO QUANTIFY THE SOCIETAL BENEFITS OF SOLAR DERS THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. HAVE YOU QUANTIFIED SUCH BENEFITS, OR ARE YOU AWARE OF OTHERS WHO HAVE?**

**A:** Yes. New renewable generation will supply a number of environmental and public policy benefits for DESC ratepayers and the citizens of South Carolina. These include:

- **Health benefits of reduced emissions of criteria pollutants.** Exposure to criteria air pollutants, including particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides causes asthma and other respiratory illnesses, cancer, and premature death. Models and analyses from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) can be used to quantify the health benefits of reducing these emissions from fossil fueled generation. ORS witness Mr. Horii cites a USEPA study that calculates benefits of \$17 to \$44 per MWh (in 2020 dollars) for solar generation that reduces criteria air emissions in the Southeast.<sup>18</sup>
- **Reduced methane leakage** is an additional environmental benefit of displacing natural gas use. It is a significant benefit because methane has about 100 times the greenhouse warming potential of carbon dioxide in the 20 years after it leaks to the atmosphere. Based on recent research estimating 1.9% leakage upstream of gas-fired power plants,<sup>19</sup> methane leakage significantly increases the carbon-equivalent emissions of gas-fired power plants, by almost 70%. As a result, it is important to account for these directly-related methane emissions from the production and pipeline

<sup>18</sup> ORS testimony (Horii), at p. 33.

<sup>19</sup> See Alvarez, Ramón A., *et al.* "Assessment of Methane Emissions from the U.S. Oil and Gas Supply Chain," *Science*, Vol. 361, No. 6398, 13 July 2018. Other research has determined that throughput on natural gas pipeline systems and methane leakage are highly correlated; thus, it is reasonable to assume that decreased throughput would result in decreased leakage. See He, Liyin, *et al.* "Atmospheric Methane Emissions Correlate With Natural Gas Consumption From Residential and Commercial Sectors in Los Angeles," *Geophysical Research Letters*, Vol. 46, No. 14, 2019, at pp. 8563–8571.

infrastructure that would serve the gas-fired generation displaced by new solar generation. I calculate that the benefit of avoided methane leakage on the DESC system is \$7.80 per MWh, based on avoiding the methane leakage associated with the marginal use of natural gas in power plants.

- **Additional benefits of reduced carbon emissions.** The societal damages from climate change have been quantified as the “social cost of carbon” (SCC). A recent estimate of the SCC for the U.S. is the median estimate of \$417 per metric tonne from an academic review of a range of SCC values published in October 2018 in *Nature Climate Change*.<sup>20</sup> The SCC significantly exceeds estimates of the direct, compliance costs of controlling carbon emissions (such as the \$25 per ton compliance cost assumed in the DESC IRP). Reducing carbon dioxide and methane emissions will have the additional social and economic benefit of avoiding these damages from climate change. This societal benefit can be measured as the SCC minus DESC’s assumed carbon compliance costs, which results in a 25-year levelized benefit of \$133 per MWh.
- **Land use benefits.** Distributed generation makes use of the built environment in the load center – typically roofs and parking lots – without disturbing the existing use for the property. In contrast, central station solar plants require larger single parcels of land, and are more remotely located where the land has other uses for agriculture or grazing. Today, the land typically must be removed from this prior use when it becomes a solar farm. Central-station solar photovoltaic plants with fixed arrays or single-axis tracking typically require 7.5 to 9.0 acres per MW-AC, or 3.3 to 4.4 acres per GWh per year. The lost value of the land depends on the alternative use to which it could be put. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has reported the average value of agricultural land in South Carolina in 2019 as \$3,400 per acre.<sup>21</sup> Assuming 3.9 acres per GWh per year, a \$3,400 per acre value of land, and a 25-year loan at an interest rate of 5% per year to finance the land purchase, distributed solar provides a land use benefit of about \$1 per MWh of solar output.

The societal benefits enumerated above total \$172 per MWh, using the midpoint of the range of health benefits. This calculation does not include the direct and indirect economic impacts of net metered distributed generation to South Carolina set forth in Dr. Hefner’s direct testimony.

<sup>20</sup> See Ricke et al., “Country-level social cost of carbon,” *Nature Climate Change* (October 2018). Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-018-0282-y.epdf>.

<sup>21</sup> See <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/pn89d6567/g732dn07g/9306t9701/land0819.pdf>.

1     **Q:     ARE THERE OTHER SOCIETAL BENEFITS FROM DISTRIBUTED**  
 2     **SOLAR THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY?**

3     A:     Yes. There are additional benefits of distributed solar resources that are  
 4     difficult to quantify, but that the Commission should acknowledge and consider  
 5     qualitatively. These additional benefits include:

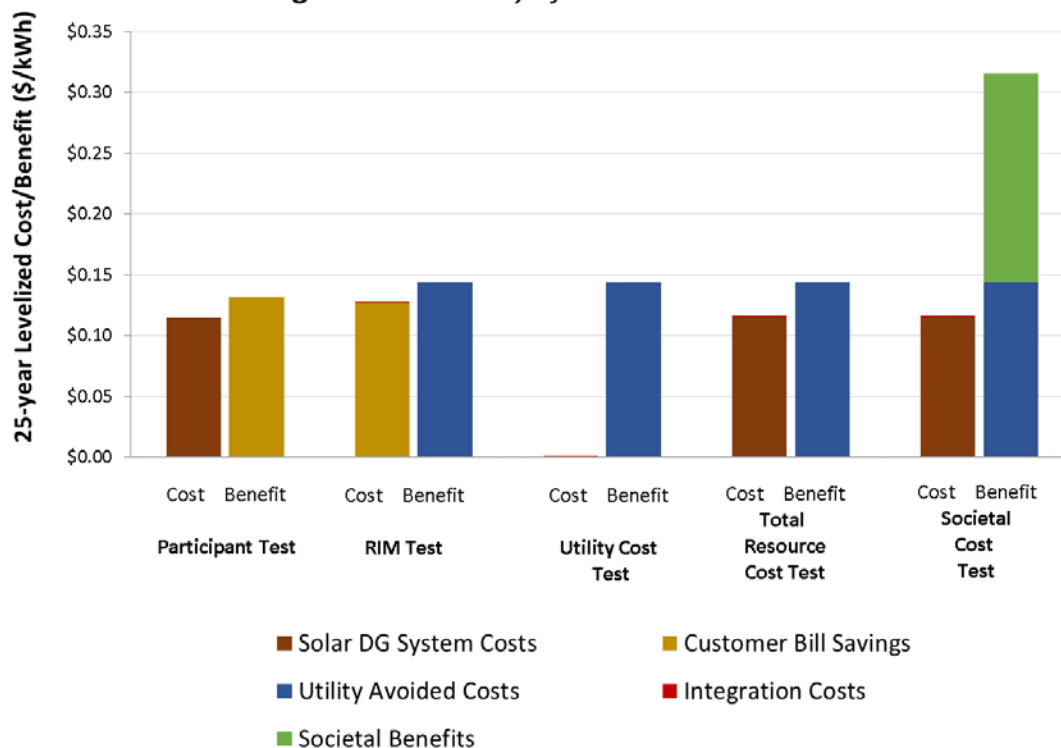
- 6             • Rooftop solar enhances the **reliability and resiliency** of customers' electric  
 7             service, because solar DG is a foundational element for backup power  
 8             systems and micro-grids that can provide uninterrupted power when the  
 9             utility grid is down.
- 10            • Distributed solar also enhances customers' **freedom, choice, and**  
 11            **engagement** – allowing them to choose the source of their electricity and to  
 12            produce much of it themselves on their private property. This results in  
 13            customers who are more engaged and better informed about how their  
 14            electricity is supplied.
- 15            • The choice of using private capital to install solar DG on a customer's  
 16            premises leverages **a new source of capital** to expand South Carolina's clean  
 17            energy infrastructure and allows the state to take full advantage of federal tax  
 18            incentives for solar that have begun to phase out this year.

19     **L. Cost Effectiveness**

20     **Q:     HOW DO YOU PROPOSE EVALUATING SOLAR PV COST-**  
 21     **EFFECTIVENESS?**

22     A:     As explained in my direct testimony, it is vital to examine the benefits and costs  
 23     of distributed resources from multiple perspectives of each of the major  
 24     stakeholders – the utility system as a whole, participating NEM/DER customers,  
 25     and other ratepayers – so that the regulator can balance all of these important  
 26     interests. Thus, the Commission should consider the results of the full suite of  
 27     standard practice manual (SPM) tests for cost-effectiveness. I have assembled  
 28     the benefits and costs of distributed solar discussed above into the five primary  
 29     SPM tests. The following **Figure 4** and **Table 11** show the results for the five  
 30     SPM tests on the DESC system.



**Figure 4: Summary of SPM Test Results**

1

2 **Table 11: Benefits and Costs of Solar DG for DESC (25-yr levelized \$/kWh)**

Benefit-Cost SPM Test	Participant		RIM / UCT		Total Resource		Societal	
Category	Cost	Benefit	Cost	Benefit	Cost	Benefit	Cost	Benefit
Direct Avoided Costs				0.144		0.144		0.144
Lost Revenues / Bill Savings		0.132 (all solar)	0.127 (exports)					
Integration			0.001		0.001		0.001	
Solar DG LCOE	0.115				0.115		0.115	
Societal Benefits								0.172
Totals	0.115	0.132	0.128	0.144	0.116	0.144	0.116	0.316
Benefit / Cost Ratios	1.15		1.12 (RIM) >>1.00 (UCT)		1.24		2.72	

3 **Q: WHAT DO YOU CONCLUDE FROM THESE RESULTS?**

4 A: The results show that distributed residential solar on the DESC system passes all  
5 of the SPM tests. As a result, my principal conclusions are the following:

- 1           1. Solar DG is a cost-effective resource for DESC, as the benefits equal or  
2           exceed the costs in the TRC, Utility Cost, and Societal tests. As a result, in  
3           the long-run, deployment of solar DG will reduce the utility's cost of service.
- 4           2. Net metering does not cause a cost shift to non-participating ratepayers,  
5           including low-income customers, as shown by the results for the Ratepayer  
6           Impact Measure and Utility Cost tests.
- 7           3. Modifications to net metering are not needed to recover the utility's full cost  
8           of service over time from net metering customers. Major rate design changes  
9           for residential DG customers, such as increased fixed charges, the use of  
10          demand charges, or two-channel billing to set different compensation rates  
11          for imported and exported power, are not needed to recover the utility's full  
12          cost of service over time from net metering customers.
- 13          4. The economics of solar DG are marginal for DESC's residential customers,  
14          as shown by the Participant test results just above 1.0 and the modest amount  
15          of solar adoption to date. Thus, continuing the current compensation provided  
16          to solar DG customers could be important in maintaining the growth of this  
17          resource, particularly given the ongoing step-down in the federal tax credit.
- 18          5. There are significant, quantifiable societal benefits from solar DG, including  
19          public health improvements from reduced air pollution and from mitigating  
20          the damages from carbon emissions.
- 21          6. Solar DG also provides other important benefits that are difficult to quantify.  
22          These include the enhanced reliability and resiliency of customers' electric  
23          service, enhanced customer freedom, new sources of private capital to expand  
24          South Carolina's clean energy infrastructure, and an opportunity for the  
25          state's citizens to take advantage of federal tax incentives for solar.

#### 26                   IV.     RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

##### 27           A. Cost-of-Service Issues

28   **Q:     ORS WITNESS BRIAN HORII EXPRESSES A CONCERN THAT THE**  
29   **DUKE ENERGY COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY FOR NEM CUSTOMERS**  
30   **USES A SUMMER 1 COINCIDENT PEAK ("1 CP") AS THE DEMAND**  
31   **METRIC. HE IS CONCERNED THAT THIS METRIC IS INACCURATE**  
32   **GIVEN THE RECENT WINTER PEAKS THAT DUKE HAS**  
33   **EXPERIENCED.<sup>22</sup> PLEASE COMMENT.**

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<sup>22</sup> ORS Testimony (Horii), at pp. 18-19.

1 A: ORS Witness Horii answers his own concern a few pages earlier in his testimony,  
 2 where he clearly and correctly explains that both marginal and embedded cost-  
 3 of-service (COS) analyses have roles to play in evaluating the reasonableness of  
 4 a NEM tariff. Indeed, Act 62 explicitly calls for both to be considered in the  
 5 design of the Solar Choice tariffs. He observes that an embedded cost-of-service  
 6 analysis is important for “evaluating the policy issue of whether the solar  
 7 customers would be paying their fair share of costs.”<sup>23</sup> I agree that the essential  
 8 purpose of a cost-of-service analysis, as performed in periodic rate cases, is to  
 9 devise a fair allocation of the utility’s costs among its customer classes. These  
 10 costs are mostly historic costs incurred in the past, and therefore the allocators  
 11 used to assign them to customer classes often will consider the demand drivers  
 12 that caused them to be incurred in the past. From this perspective, Duke’s use of  
 13 the Summer 1 CP allocator is reasonable, as Duke historically has been  
 14 predominantly a summer-peaking utility, with the winter peaks emerging only in  
 15 a few recent cold snaps. That said, I agree with ORS Witness Horii that marginal  
 16 cost information also is important to the design of the rates in the Solar Choice  
 17 tariff, especially given that the marginal cost data is forward-looking, is more  
 18 granular in time than the allocators in an embedded COS study, and focuses on  
 19 the impact of a customer’s choice on the margin to use and export on-site solar  
 20 generation. I anticipate that, as the design of tariffs for small customers becomes  
 21 more sophisticated – for example, by introducing various types of time-  
 22 dependent pricing – the use of more granular marginal cost considerations will  
 23 increase in importance. Act 62 clearly expects that there is a balance between  
 24 the embedded and marginal COS perspectives that needs to be achieved in the  
 25 Solar Choice tariff.

26 **Q: WOULD THIS DOCKET BE THE APPROPRIATE PLACE TO MAKE**  
 27 **CHANGES TO ONE OF THE ALLOCATORS IN DUKE’S EMBEDDED**  
 28 **COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY?**

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, at p. 16.

1 A: No, it would not. A utility's embedded COS study is typically a major issue in  
 2 general rate cases, where a broad range of parties have significant interests in  
 3 how the utility's costs are allocated to its customer classes. Those rate cases are  
 4 the correct venues in which all of the elements of an embedded COS study can  
 5 be reviewed together, holistically, with all of the affected parties represented.  
 6 The most recent rate cases for Duke Energy Carolinas (DEC) and Duke Energy  
 7 Progress (DEP) have approved embedded COS studies that include the Summer  
 8 1 CP allocator.<sup>24</sup>

9 **B. Impacts on Low-Income Customers**

10 **Q: ORS WITNESS DR. JOHN RUOFF EXPRESSES CONCERN WITH THE**  
 11 **IMPACTS ON LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS OF ANY COST SHIFT**  
 12 **FROM NET METERING CUSTOMERS TO NON-PARTICIPATING**  
 13 **RATEPAYERS. PLEASE ADDRESS DR. RUOFF'S CONCERN.**

14 A: Act 62 requires that the Solar Choice tariff should "eliminate any cost shift to the  
 15 greatest extent practicable on customers who do not have customer sited  
 16 generation."<sup>25</sup> With respect to DESC, the cost-effectiveness numbers presented  
 17 in this rebuttal testimony indicate that there is presently no cost shift to non-  
 18 participants under the current Act 236 policies and today's full retail net  
 19 metering. This is demonstrated by net metering passing the Ratepayer Impact  
 20 Measure (RIM) test for DESC residential customers. The RIM test is the most  
 21 stringent test measuring impacts on non-participating ratepayers. Of course, the  
 22 scope of this docket is limited to addressing the methodology for evaluating the  
 23 Solar Choice tariffs. No actual Solar Choice tariffs have been proposed or  
 24 evaluated, so it is premature to conclude whether there is a cost shift issue that  
 25 needs to be addressed with those yet-to-be-filed tariffs.

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<sup>24</sup> For DEC, see Order No. 2019-323 in Docket No. 2018-319-E (May 21, 2019), at p. 32 (Finding of Fact 33). For DEP, see Order No. 2019-454 in Docket No. 2018-318-E (October 18, 2019), at p. 3, specifically approving the company's COS study "to allocate all revenues, expenses, and rate base items and to design rates for all customer classes...."

<sup>25</sup> See Section 58-40-20(G)(1).

It is also important to note that the solar net metering tariffs—by themselves—have little to no effect on the longstanding affordability issues raised by ORS Witness Ruoff, especially given the positive cost-effectiveness results discussed above and the relatively low penetration of distributed solar in South Carolina today. Utilities can and should take proactive steps to address affordability of essential utility service for their low-income customers, including adopting efficiency programs that serve low-income households, establishing programs that make the benefits of solar accessible for low-income customers, and offering affordable rate designs with arrearage management and discounts to standard tariff rates. Those steps will have a profound and direct role in making utility service affordable.

**Q: DOES A SOLAR CHOICE TARIFF HAVE TO PASS THE RIM TEST FOR THE COMMISSION TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS NO COST SHIFT ISSUE?**

A: No. My direct testimony discussed at length the issues with the RIM test, and why the Utility Cost Test is more appropriate for evaluating a new, forward-looking program such as the Solar Choice tariffs. Further, the cost shift issue is a matter of equity among groups of ratepayers, and there are multiple ways to address any inequities. For example, the utilities, the solar industry, the Commission, and the state of South Carolina can develop programs to increase the access of low-income customers to solar technology, thus allowing low-income ratepayers to become participating customers – not just non-participants. In other states, the solar industry is a strong supporter and partner in such programs to expand solar access.

In addition, any weighing of equities among groups of ratepayers also should consider the societal benefits of clean DER technologies. These benefits include health benefits from reductions in emissions of criteria air pollutants and mitigating the damages of climate change. These benefits can be of particular importance to disadvantaged, low-income communities who often bear greater burdens from environmental degradation in the past and present. Expanding

1 access to solar that is built in and by these impacted communities is particularly  
2 important to address the environmental justice issues that this history raises.<sup>26</sup>

3 **Q: DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?**

4 **A:** Yes, it does.

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<sup>26</sup> Act 62 includes specific provisions to encourage community solar programs that can expand access to solar in low- and moderate-income communities. See Section 58-41-40.

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the parties listed below have been served with a copy of the *Rebuttal Testimony of R. Thomas Beach* filed on behalf of the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Upstate Forever, Vote Solar, Solar Energy Industries Association, and the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association by electronic mail or by deposit in the U.S. Mail, first-class, postage prepaid.

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This 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

s/ Katherine Lee Mixson



# EXHIBIT RTB-3

### III. DISCUSSION OF THE HEARING

The Commission conducted a generic proceeding on this matter on February 3, 2015, in the hearing room of the Commission with the Honorable Nikiya “Nikki” Hall presiding. At the outset of the hearing, ORS counsel described the Settlement Agreement. The methodology proposed in the Settlement Agreement (“Methodology”) is as follows:

#### Net Energy Metering (“NEM”) Methodology

- +/- Avoided Energy
- +/- Energy Losses/Line Losses
- +/- Avoided Capacity
- +/- Ancillary Services
- +/- Transmission and Distribution (“T&D”) Capacity
- +/- Avoided Criteria Pollutants
- +/- Avoided CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Cost
- +/- Fuel Hedge
- +/- Utility Integration & Interconnection Costs
- +/- Utility Administration Costs
- +/- Environmental Costs
- = **Total Value of NEM Distributed Energy Resource**

The following table details the components of the Methodology.

Methodology Component	Description	Calculation Methodology/Value
+/- Avoided Energy	Increase/reduction in variable costs to the Utility from conventional energy sources, i.e. fuel use and power plant operations, associated with the adoption of NEM.	Component is the marginal value of energy derived from production simulation runs per the Utility's most recent Integrated Resource Planning (“IRP”) study and/or Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (“PURPA”) Avoided Cost formulation.
+/- Energy Losses/Line Losses	Increase/reduction of electricity losses by the Utility from the points of generation to the points of delivery associated with the adoption of NEM.	Component is the generation, transmission, and distribution loss factors from either the Utility's most recent cost of service study or its approved Tariffs. Average loss factors are more readily available, but marginal loss data is more appropriate and should be used when available.
+/- Avoided Capacity	Increase/reduction in the fixed costs to the Utility of building and maintaining new conventional generation resources associated with the adoption of NEM.	Component is the forecast of marginal capacity costs derived from the Utility's most recent IRP and/or PURPA Avoided Cost formulation. These capacity costs should be adjusted for the appropriate energy losses.

Methodology Component	Description	Calculation Methodology/Value
+/- Ancillary Services	Increase/reduction of the costs of services for the Utility such as operating reserves, voltage control, and frequency regulation needed for grid stability associated with the adoption of NEM.	Component includes the increase/decrease in the cost of each Utility's providing or procurement of services, whether services are based on variable load requirements and/or based on a fixed/static requirement, i.e. determined by an N-1 contingency. It also includes the cost of future NEM technologies like "smart inverters" if such technologies can provide services like VAR support, etc.
+/- T&D Capacity	Increase/reduction of costs to the Utility associated with expanding, replacing and/or upgrading transmission and/or distribution capacity associated with the adoption of NEM.	Marginal T&D distribution costs will need to be determined to expand, replace, and/or upgrade capacity on each Utility's system. Due to the nature of NEM generation, this analysis will be highly locational as some distribution feeders may or may not be aligned with the NEM generation profile although they may be more aligned with the transmission system profile/peak. These capacity costs should be adjusted for the appropriate energy losses.
+/- Avoided Criteria Pollutants	Increase/reduction of SO <sub>x</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , and PM <sub>10</sub> emission costs to the Utility due to increase/reduction in production from the Utility's marginal generating resources associated with the adoption of NEM generation if not already included in the Avoided Energy component.	The costs of these criteria pollutants are most likely already accounted for in the Avoided Energy Component, but, if not, they should be accounted for separately. The Avoided Energy component must specify if these are included.
+/- Avoided CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions Cost	Increase/reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions due to increase/reduction in production from each Utility's marginal generating resources associated with the adoption of NEM generation.	The cost of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions may be included in the Avoided Energy Component, but, if not, they should be accounted for separately. A zero monetary value will be used until state or federal laws or regulations result in an avoidable cost on Utility systems for these emissions.
+/- Fuel Hedge	Increase/reduction in administrative costs to the Utility of locking in future price of fuel associated with the adoption of NEM.	Component includes the increases/decreases in administrative costs of any Utility's current fuel hedging program as a result of NEM adoption and the cost or benefit associated with serving a portion of its load with a resource that has less volatility due to fuel costs than certain fossil fuels. This value does not include commodity gains or losses and may currently be zero.
+/- Utility Integration & Interconnection Costs	Increase/reduction of costs borne by each Utility to interconnect and integrate NEM.	Costs can be determined most easily by detailed studies and/or literature reviews that have examined the costs of integration and interconnection associated with the adoption of NEM. Appropriate levels of photovoltaic penetration increases in South Carolina should be included.

Methodology Component	Description	Calculation Methodology/Value
+/- Utility Administration Costs	Increase/reduction of costs borne by each Utility to administer NEM.	Component includes the incremental costs associated with net metering, such as hand billing of net metering customers and other administrative costs.
+/- Environmental Costs	Increase/reduction of environmental compliance and/or system costs to the Utility.	The environmental compliance and/or Utility system costs might be accounted for in the Avoided Energy component, but, if not, should be accounted for separately. The Avoided Energy component must specify if these are included. These environmental compliance and/ or Utility system costs must be quantifiable and not based on estimates.

The Settlement Agreement was accepted into the record as Hearing Exhibit 1. Prior to the hearing and without objection from the remaining parties, the Commission granted SCE&G, Duke, SBA and ORS permission to utilize panels for the presentation of witnesses.

SCE&G presented W. Keller Kissam as its first witness. Witness Kissam provided information confirming SCE&G's commitment to promoting distributed renewable generation in South Carolina and supporting the Commission's adoption of the Settlement Agreement. Witness Kissam discussed SCE&G's current solar resources, which include a partnership with Boeing that resulted in installation of 2.6 megawatts of solar laminate on top of their aircraft manufacturing facility, and other planned projects. Additionally, witness Kissam testified that planned projects add up to fifty (50) megawatts of utility-scale solar to its system. Regarding the Act, witness Kissam briefly discussed its three primary aspects: net energy metering ("NEM"), distributed energy resource ("DER") program, and solar leasing.